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Did You Lie About Your Golf Score?

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By JOHN CRAMER

FEDERAL FIDGET

Civil Service Commission plans a new inquiry into the much-criticized practices of Government - investigators who conduct security and suitability investigations of Federal employees and Federal job applicants.

He gave this assurance last week in a letter to the Ervin Sub-committee, whose files contain hundreds of cases in which investigators have exceeded all bounds of propriety — or investigative necessity.

Mr. Macy expressed his own concern for these excesses, and asked the Sub-committee's assistance in determining the scope of the new inquiry.

A PROMISE

Meantime, Air Force has promised the Sub-committee it will re-issuë and re-emphasize a basic policy directive which tells its investigators that questions asked of employees and applicants must be "relevant."

The Sub-committee recently cited the case of one AF investigator whose idea of a relevant question was: "Have you ever lied about your golf score?"

That's mostly amusing. Many other examples in the Sub-

committee files are anything but.

Pay Delay

Next decisions on Federal employee pay raises seem likely to be deferred until after Sept. 11,

when Congress returns from its Labor Day recess.

For the moment, the ball still lies with the House Civil Service Committee. It's deeply immersed in the postal rate increase bill.

There's little likelihood it can act this week on a tentative proposal which would tie postal rates into a package measure with a one-grade upgrading for postal employees in the first five levels — with accompanying raises of 6.83 per cent.

SUBSTITUTE

That's what the rank- and-file postal unions are pushing a substitute for the pay bill approved by a Sub-committee headed by Rep. Morris Udall (D., Ariz.).

The Udall bill would provide an Oct. 1 raise of 6 per cent for postal employees, and 4.5 per cent for Classified workers.

Next July 1, it would give postals another 5 per cent, and Classifieds enough to make up half the then-remaining lag between Federal rates and national average private rates. A third increase, July 1, 1969, would close the rest of the Classified gap.

The postal unions continue to insist that's not enough — for them. At the moment, the tide is running against them.

The Federal employee bill of rights, sponsored by Sen. Sam Ervin (D., N.C.), the Constitutional Rights Sub-committee chairman, and 54 other Senators, is in a bit of trouble — but, hopefully, it's only temporary.

The bill has the approval of the Judiciary Committee; had been scheduled for early Senate action.

But Central Intelligence Agency and National Security Agency, supported by Sen. Birch Bayh (D., Ind.), a Committee member, have demanded closed-door hearings on their request that they be exempted from ALL provisions of the bill, including its ban on coercion in Government Bond drives and charity

drives, and its sharp restriction on required employee disclosures of financial assets.

EXEMPTED

The Committee already has exempted them from the bill's restrictions against the use of lie detector tests and so-called psychological tests.

Sen. Bayh has threatened to ask the Senate to recommit the bill, if the closed-door hearings are not granted.

Sen. Ervin's answer: His Sub-committee will be delighted to hear what the two agencies have to say — but only in OPEN hearings, an invitation they've previously declined.

The full Committee (and eventually the Senate) will decide.

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